

GOVERNMENT ORIENTAL SERIES

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Way of Life. In some systems of thought a distinction is made between two orders of being, metaphysical and empirical. It does not mean that the latter is illusory. The distinction between the two is not absolute. The metaphysical reality is immanent in the world of becoming and makes for the gradual unfolding of values. This world is consecrated ground. Our sages set forth in clear and shining words the ideal of participation in the work of the world in order to raise its quality. *Karmabhūmim imām prāpya kartavyam karma yat śubham* says Rāma, according to Vālmiki. Having come into this world of action one should perform good deeds. Vālmiki continues that the great sages have attained heaven through the performance of good deeds. It does not matter whether you are a *grhastha* or householder, *saṁnyāsin* or mendicant. Janaka was a householder, and sage Yājñavalkya was a wandering mendicant, *parivrājaka*. If we behave well, we will make the world a paradise; if we misbehave we will turn it into hell.

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